



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) experienced an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent, seasonally-adjusted, in October. This was an increase of three-tenths of a percentage point from September, as shown in Northeast Table 1. All four counties in the LMA contributed to the increase with Butte County showing the largest increase, 1.0 percent, for a rate of 5.0 percent. Bonneville County only increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.3 percent. Year-over-year, the LMA's unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, with Bingham County showing a decrease of eight-tenths of a percentage point for a rate of 3.9 percent. Most of the employment changes in Bingham County at this time of year are a result of scheduled maintenance layoffs and potato harvests, which are controlled by slight seasonal variations in crop maturation time. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, showed both a month-over-month and year-over-year increase of two-tenths of a percentage point for a 3.6 percent rate for October 2002.

Other counties in the region experienced month-over-month increases such as Custer County, which had a 1.7 percentage point increase for a rate of 7.8 percent, and Fremont County, with a 1.0 percent increase for a rate of 4.8 percent. Only two counties showed decreases from September to October 2002—Clark County decreased six-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent, and Teton County decreased nine-tenths of a percentage point to 3.1 percent. Year-over-year, unemployment rates in Fremont and Madison Counties decreased while the other counties experienced increases. Custer County showed the largest increase of 1.8 percentage points. Madison, Teton, Jefferson, and Bonneville Counties had the lowest unemployment rates in the

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Oct 2002*	Sept 2002	Oct 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b><i>Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>					
Civilian Labor Force	83,070	81,960	79,080	1.4	5.0
Unemployment	2,920	2,640	2,840	10.6	2.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.2	3.6		
Total Employment	80,140	79,320	76,240	1.0	5.1
<b><i>Unadjusted</i></b>					
Civilian Labor Force	84,380	83,550	80,280	1.0	5.1
Unemployment	2,490	2,820	2,380	-11.7	4.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	3.4	3.0		
Total Employment	81,890	80,730	77,900	1.4	5.1
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	63,650	63,410	61,780	0.4	3.0
<b><i>Goods-Producing Industries</i></b>	10,810	10,670	9,680	1.3	11.7
Mining & Construction	5,360	5,550	4,900	-3.4	9.4
Manufacturing	5,450	5,120	4,780	6.4	14.0
Food Processing	2,660	2,280	2,430	16.7	9.5
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	570	590	450	-3.4	26.7
All Other Manufacturing	2,220	2,250	1,900	-1.3	16.8
<b><i>Service-Producing Industries</i></b>	52,840	52,740	52,100	0.2	1.4
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,380	2,290	2,450	3.9	-2.9
Wholesale Trade	5,000	5,000	5,090	0.0	-1.8
Retail Trade	11,270	11,390	11,110	-1.1	1.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	2,000	2,010	1,880	-0.5	6.4
Services	21,620	22,010	20,870	-1.8	3.6
Government Administration	5,250	5,310	5,270	-1.1	-0.4
Government Education	5,320	4,730	5,430	12.5	-2.0
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

state in October, at 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 percent, respectively. For all county rates in October, see State Table 1 on page 3.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 240 jobs from September to October 2002. *Goods-Producing Industries* and *Service-Producing Industries* added jobs almost equally. *Construction* lost almost 200 jobs as cold and humid weather restricted activity. Another loss of almost 400 jobs occurred in *Services*, specifically *Amusement, Recreation* and *Hotels & Other Lodging*. Industries showing favorable gains include *Manufacturing*, *Government Education*, and *Communication*. The *Food Processing* sector showed an increase when employees started back to work after annual maintenance layoffs, and the *Communication* industry is rebounding somewhat from the earlier downturn in the national economy.

Year-over-year comparisons showed an overall increase in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* of 1,870, with a gain of 1,130 jobs in *Goods-Producing Industries* and an increase of 740 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*. *Services*, *Manufacturing*, and *Construction* showed collective gains of 1,880 jobs. Out of these, *Special Trades* in *Construction*, *Nondurable Goods* in *Manufacturing*,

and *Business Services* and *Hotels & Other Lodging in Services* have shown the greater increases. Decreases were only apparent in the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Government Education* experienced the largest decrease, 110 jobs, as budgetary restraints affected jobs at the beginning of the new school year.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Taylor Crossing on the River, a premier commercial development in Idaho Falls, recently held an open house at the Joseph A. Clark building. It is the second building in a development that will eventually include at least 20 buildings, and it features extensive landscaping and waterways. The building is named after the city's first mayor; each of the buildings in the development will be named after historical figures from Idaho Falls. The building is now open to tenants and still has room for more. Cooper Norman & Co. moved from Capital Avenue to occupy a large part of the main level. McNeil Development, the company in charge of building the development, will also be housed in the Clark building. The \$4 million, 30,000-square-foot building touts Georgian architecture with marble-appointed bathrooms, travertine doors, and an impressive chandelier above a three-story staircase. It also includes 20 spaces of heated underground parking for tenants, a design planned for other buildings in the same development. Groundbreaking on the third building has already begun. The project is expected to extend over 10 years.
- Mountain View Hospital recently opened for business in Idaho Falls off of Channing Way. Twenty-three local physicians own 85 percent of the hospital; the ASC Group owns the remaining 15 percent. The hospital specializes in women's services, labor and delivery, and orthopedics. It has 20 beds—12 for in-patient post-surgical care, and eight for labor and delivery and post-childbirth care. The new hospital has an agreement with the larger Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center to send patients there who may need more specific care. The hospitals are one-quarter of a mile apart.

### Butte County

- Argonne National Laboratory will offer voluntary separation to 250 eligible employees in Idaho and Illinois in an effort to avoid making additional layoffs. Overall, the company needs to cut 40 jobs to focus on its new mission, which is fuel recycling. Currently, Argonne has more employees in the physics field than it needs. Under the new mis-

sion, more employees with a chemical engineering background are needed.

### Madison County

- The City of Rexburg's Planning and Zoning Committee has decided it will not consider any more zoning changes until it has had time to discuss its position on several challenges brought about by the growth of Brigham Young University - Idaho. The City wants to assure that zoning is adequate for growth in the city. It also wants to make sure that zoning regulations cover the types of businesses that are compatible with the town.
- Rexburg was named among the top 120 small towns in America for people who want to leave fast-paced city life and move to a more relaxing environment, according to a new book, "The Best Small Towns in America: How to Find a Great Little Place As Your Next Home Base." Towns are judged on crime rates, growth, proportion of young adults to the rest of the population, number of physicians, cost of living, climate, and many other factors. The author, Norman Crampton, has chosen Rexburg two previous times.
- The groundbreaking ceremony for Brigham Young University - Idaho's new Student Health and Counseling Center took place at the end of November. The 22,500-square-foot building will be built on the south side of campus and will free up space in the Clarke building, which currently houses the health center, and the Kimball Building, which houses the counseling center. The new facility will include 12 exam rooms and a large procedure room for minor surgeries on the first floor. The counseling center will be located on the second floor and will include 13 counseling offices, a testing room, and two group counseling rooms. The building will also include a drive-up area for student drop-off, a pharmacy, an X-ray facility, a lab area, and an expanded reception and waiting area. The completion date is set for April 2004.

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